

ABSTRACT

WA-II-275

18th-19th Centuries

Fieldstone Fences Along

Dam # 4 Road

Downsville Vicinity

private

Stone walls and native limestone field fences form an integral part of Washington County's rural landscape. Often to be seen along the County's older roads, dividing fields or property boundaries the fences are made of relatively flat stones laid without mortar. Slight variations in construction technique are discernable as one travels through Washington County. The general form, however consists of several courses of stone arranged horizontally and topped with a row of vertically or diagonally set flat stones.

The many stone fences in Washington County appear to be part of a significant tradition in southern Pennsylvania and Maryland of building with the native stone. In the Cumberland Valley limestone is very prominent providing a landscape studded with outcroppings. This limestone, so readily available, was used extensively as a building material during the latter part of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. According to local tradition, many of the stone walls in the County were built by slave labor during slack work periods.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Fieldstone Fences Along Dam #4 Road

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

.3 mile on Route 632 Ext., beginning

.15 mile southwest of Downsville

CITY, TOWN

Downsville,

XX VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE
024

COUNTY

Washington

CODE
043**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

N/A OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

See Continuation Sheet #1 (Multiple Owners)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WA-II-275

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Fieldstone Fences Along Dam #4 Road
Washington County,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Mrs. Alice B. Mallonee
Route 1, Box 286-A
Williamsport, Maryland 21795

Downey I. Harshman
Route 1, Box 286
Williamsport, Maryland 21795

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Ziem
Route #1
Fairplay, Maryland 21733

James R. Mellott
Route 1
Williamsport, Maryland 21795

7-DESCRIPTION

WA-II-275

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This set of fieldstone fences flanks Dam #4 Road southwest of Downsville in Washington County, Maryland.

Like many of the older roads in Washington County, Dam #4 Road has stone walls along its sides. The walls are constructed of coursed native limestone and are laid without mortar. Three to four feet high with seven to eight courses of stone lying horizontally, they are topped with a layer of flat stones placed vertically, or in some places diagonally.

Dam #4 Road was surveyed for inclusion into the County System in 1885. According to the road plat the walls were already in existence at that time.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stone walls and native limestone field fences form an integral part of Washington County's rural landscape. Often to be seen along the County's older roads and dividing fields or property boundaries, the fences are made of relatively flat stones laid without mortar. Slight variations in construction technique are discernible as one travels through Washington County. The general form, however, consists of several courses of stone arranged horizontally and topped with a row of vertically or diagonally set flat stones.

The many stone fences in Washington County appear to be part of a significant tradition in southern Pennsylvania and Maryland of building with native stone. In the Cumberland Valley limestone is very prominent in a landscape studded with outcroppings. This limestone, so readily available, was used extensively as a building material during the latter part of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. According to local tradition, many of the stone walls in the County were built by slave labor during slack work periods. This particular set of stone fences remains in good condition and is typical of many such structures to be seen in the county. Paralleling both sides of Dam #4 Road they provide a formidable boundary between field and road and are readily viewable from the public right of way. The walls are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the request of several individuals on whose property they are located.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Land Records

WA-II-275

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
------	---------	----------

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

njm nk

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Washington County Historical Sites Survey
STREET & NUMBER

April 1977

TELEPHONE

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Hagerstown,

Maryland 21740

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

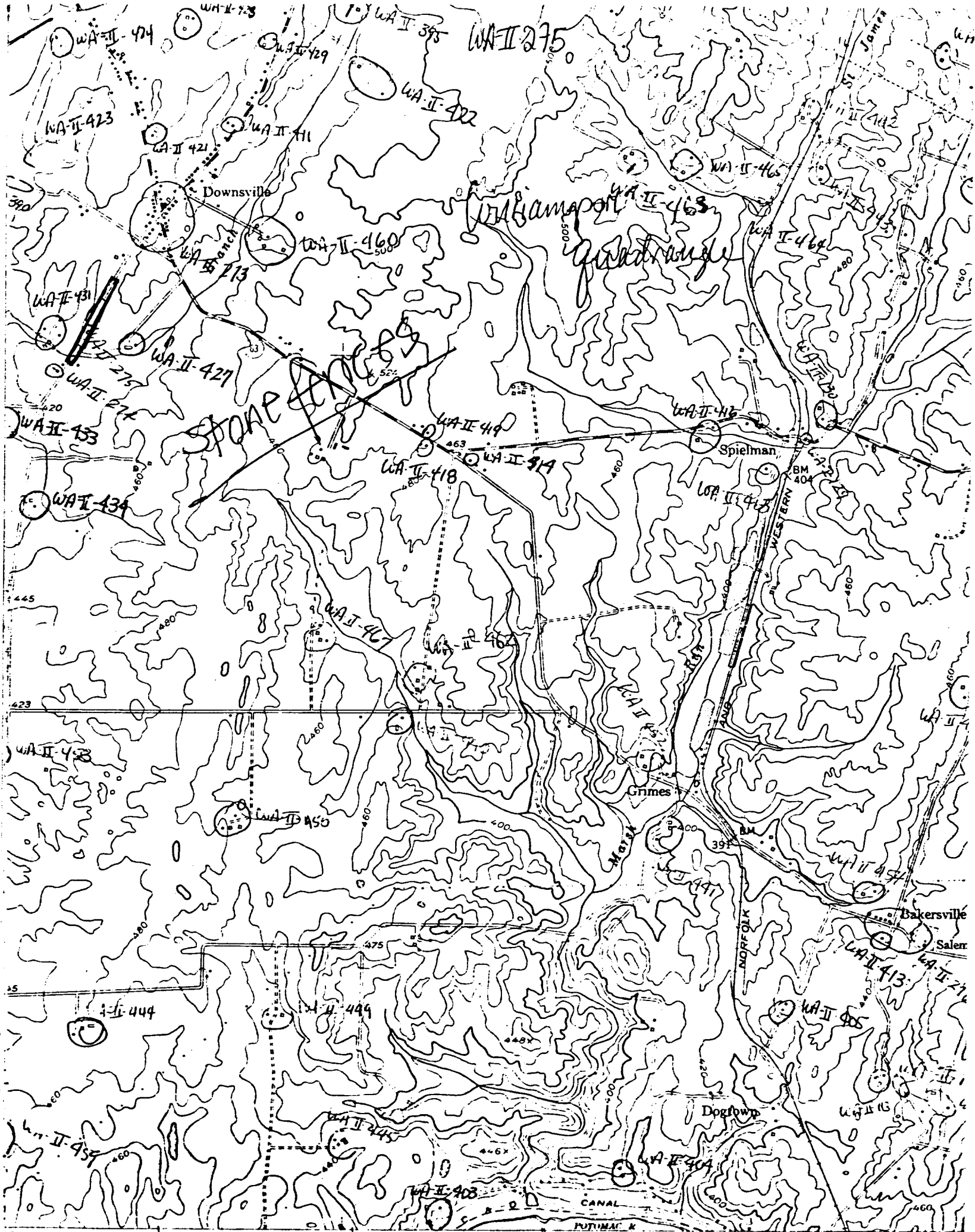
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





WA-I-275

N.W. view

April, 1977

Paula Stoner Dickey

Washington Co. Historic Sites Survey



WA-II-275

N. w. view

April, 1977

Paula Stoner Dickey

Washington Co. Historic Sites Survey



WA-II-275

N.E. View

Feb. 1976

PAUL STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-275

E View

Feb. 1976

PAULA STONER DICKEY
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY